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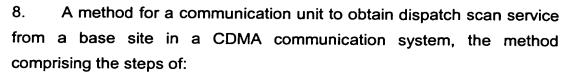
## Claims

- 1. A method for a base site to provide a dispatch scan service to a communication unit in a CDMA communication system, the method comprising the steps of:
  - transmitting, by the base site, a channel assignment for a dispatch call via a paging resource;
  - encoding, by the base site, dispatch communication for the dispatch call using a first CDMA long-code mask;
- receiving, by the base site, a request for a CDMA long-code mask transition for the dispatch call;
  - transmitting, by the base site, a second CDMA long-code mask for the dispatch call in response to the request; and
  - encoding, by the base site, dispatch communication for the dispatch call using the second CDMA long-code mask after transmitting the second CDMA long-code mask.
  - 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the dispatch call is a group dispatch call.
  - 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting the channel assignment further comprises the step of repeatedly transmitting the channel assignment for the duration of the dispatch call.
- 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the second CDMA long-code mask is transmitted to a communication unit from which the request was received.
- 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of verifying that the communication unit is authorized to join the dispatch call before transmitting the second CDMA long-code mask.

- 6. The method of claim 4 wherein the second CDMA long-code mask is transmitted via a traffic channel of the dispatch call, thereby transmitting the second CDMA long-code mask to participants of the dispatch call in addition to the communication unit from which the request was received.
- 7. The method of claim 4 wherein the second CDMA long-code mask is transmitted via an access channel.

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- scanning, by the communication unit, a paging resource for a channel assignment for a dispatch call;
- transmitting, by the communication unit, a request for a CDMA long-code mask transition for the dispatch call;
- receiving, by the communication unit, a CDMA long-code mask for the dispatch call; and
- decoding, by the communication unit, dispatch communication using the CDMA long-code mask for the dispatch call.
  - 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the dispatch call is a group dispatch call.
  - 10. The method of claim 8 wherein dispatch communication for the dispatch call is encoded using an initial CDMA long-code mask at least before the step of transmitting the request for a CDMA long-code mask transition.
  - 11. The method of claim 8 wherein the request for a CDMA long-code mask transition is transmitted via a traffic channel of the dispatch call.
- 12. The method of claim 8 wherein the request for a CDMA long-code mask transition is transmitted via an access channel.
  - 13. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of completing a call in-progress before transmitting the request for a CDMA long-code mask transition.

## 14. A base site comprising:

- a transmitter capable of transmitting a channel assignment for a dispatch call via a paging resource and of transmitting a second CDMA long-code mask for the dispatch call in response to a request for a CDMA long-code mask transition for the dispatch call;
- a receiver capable of receiving the request; and
- a processor capable of instructing the transmitter to transmit the channel assignment, of encoding dispatch communication for the dispatch call using a first CDMA long-code mask, of instructing the transmitter to transmit the second CDMA long-code mask, and of encoding dispatch communication for the dispatch call using the second CDMA long-code mask after the transmitter transmits the second CDMA long-code mask.
- 15. The base site of claim 14 wherein the processor is capable of instructing the transmitter to transmit the channel assignment repeatedly for the duration of the dispatch call.

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- 16. A communication unit comprising:
  - a receiver capable of scanning a paging resource for a channel assignment for a dispatch call and of receiving a CDMA long-code mask for the dispatch call;
- a transmitter capable of transmitting a request for a CDMA longcode mask transition for the dispatch call;
  - a processor capable of instructing the transmitter to transmit the request and of decoding dispatch communication using the CDMA long-code mask for the dispatch call.